

PHILADELPHIA ATHLETICS, WHO ARE VICTORS IN THE 1913 AMERICAN LEAGUE PENNANT RACE



HOW TEAMS COMPARE IN HITTING ABILITY

Famous Offensive Strength of Athletics May Have Slumped Since 1911.

Much has been typewritten and twittered regarding the offensive strength of the Philadelphia Athletics, but only by a comparison with the championship teams of the past can a full appreciation of their batting ability be reached, says Harry Williams in the Los Angeles Times.

The 1911 Athletics, with a team percentage of .297, comprised the hardest-hitting combination since the Pittsburgh Pirates of 1902, who put on their mauling monacles for a mark of .298. The Brooklyn club of 1899 was a hard-hitting bunch, and finished the season with a team average of .277.

The nearest approach to this mark in the past ten years was by the Boston Americans, who hit for .282 in 1903. The offensive strength of the Athletics today, however, is hardly equal to that displayed in 1911, when the Mack-men beat the Giants. That year Mack had seven men in the 400 class, while today there are but five in that charmed circle. Collins is now hitting .335 as against .365 in 1911, but Baker and McInnes are now hitting the ball harder than they were two years ago; or it may be more correct to say, with greater frequency.

Importance of Hitting.

That great offensive strength is of less importance than well-balanced teamwork and effective pitching is clearly shown by the once great Chicago club, four times winners in the National league.

In none of its championship years did Chicago have a team percentage above .265.

Chicago's next biggest team mark was in 1906, when the team failed for a figure of .242. That season the Cubs lost the world's series to the White Sox, who didn't boast a .300 hitter and who had a team average of only .225.

The Cubs won their two world's championships when they were at the lowest ebb in their attackwork. In 1907, when they beat Detroit the first time, they did not have a .300 hitter and had a team mark of only .250. In 1908, when they walked the Tigers a second time, Evers was the only player in the 300 class, and the team as a whole hit for .248.

Without .300 Hitters.

The Athletics, when they won the American league championship in 1905, and lost the world's series to the Giants, did not sport a .300 hitter.

The Cubs, the White Sox and the Athletics enjoy the distinction of being the only teams in the past dozen years to win a championship without the aid of a .300 hitter.

The New York Giants seem in a fair way to repeat this record, for in last accounts McGraw didn't have a man in the .300 class. Mevers, his prize hitter, being four points below that mark.

Hereafter are presented the 300 hitters on the championship clubs since 1901:

N. L. Champions, Pittsburgh.	A. L. Champions, Chicago.
Wagner 141	Callahan 133
Beaman 121	Jones 123
Cleare 121	Hartman 121
Club average 121	Goldie 121

1902.	1903.
Pittsburgh 131	L. Cross 137
Sehring 120	Seibold 121
Wagner 114	Wagner 114
Cleare 114	Murphy 114
Brantford 109	Peltz 102
Club average 114	Club average 114

1904.	1905.
Pittsburgh 135	Parrell 137
Keeney 120	Dougherty 121
Wagner 113	Young 113
Cleare 102	Young 102
Beaman 102	Goldie 102
Club average 113	Club average 113

1906.	1907.
New York 150	Stahl 157
Donn 121	Club average 121
Club average 121	Club average 121

1908.	1909.
New York 150	Stahl 157
Donn 121	Club average 121
Club average 121	Club average 121

1910.	1911.
Chicago 151	Parrell 157
Chance 134	Parrell 134
Kilg 98	Parrell 98
Club average 121	Club average 121

1912.	1913.
Chicago 151	Parrell 157
Chance 134	Parrell 134
Kilg 98	Parrell 98
Club average 121	Club average 121

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NEW YORK GIANTS, NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



JOE JACKSON PICKS GIANTS AS WINNERS

"The Athletics will lose the world's series this year because of a weak pitching staff. I look for the Giants to win four straight games," declares Joe Jackson, the hard-hitting Naplaner.

"Connie Mack's two best pitchers are Ed Plank and Chas. Bender. Of the two, Ed Plank looks the better. He will be effective as he always is.

"Plank is tired from overwork, and unless the few days' rest he got before the series has given his arm the needed strength he will go into the series stale."

"Joe Bush, one of Mack's youngsters, won't last over three innings if the Giants wait him out and don't hit until they have to. Bush strains every nerve and muscle in his body at every throw. He can't stand nine innings.

"Carroll Brown doesn't use his best ball enough. He has a splitter as good as any I ever looked at when it is working right, and the spit ball is hard to hit. But Brown doesn't mix it enough with his other stuff. His curves and fast ball aren't enough.

"Shawkey, Mack's third youngster, won't last any longer than Brown. Shawkey's pitching might hold out, but the crowd in New York will get his nerve.

"Coombs, world's series veteran and a real pitcher when he is right, can't help Connie this fall. A man just recovering from a serious illness such as Coombs has can't possibly build up his strength in such a short time to last him through a game under the strain world series pitchers work under.

"I'm pulling for the Athletics because they're in the American league, but it sure looks like the Giants to me."

WILL BE STAR HURLER OF SERIES?

Who will be the hero of the 1913 world's championship?

The singular quirk of fate has put the New York and Philadelphia clubs in the belief that the youngest of the respective teams will be the stars of the impending clash.

McGraw, serving his first year as manager, is fair to lead the National league in the winning percentage. It is the fond hope of Steam-Boat enthusiasts that "Steam-Boat" will outpitch such established hurlers as Ed Plank and a few of the other young box performers.

Who will be the hero of the 1913 world's championship?